

HABS-NJ-528

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Packer House  
Ewing Avenue  
2 (Franklin Lakes) Bergen County, New Jersey  
NEAR WYCKOFF

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Packer House  
Ewing Avenue  
(Franklin Lakes) Bergen County, New Jersey  
NEAR WYCKOFF

Owner: Henry B. Crosby  
40 Montclair Avenue  
Montclair, New Jersey

Date of Erection: First story wing early eighteenth  
century; main house about 1789;  
frame half story over wing about  
1850

Architect:

Builder: Main house, a member of the Packer family

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - fieldstone

Exterior walls - wing,  
first floor stone with  
frame half story over  
it; main house, stone with  
stone quoins

Interior walls - plaster

Roof - pitch with frame  
gable ends

Historical Data:

We have been unable to get definite  
information on the early history of this house.  
Erskine did not survey this road so that we do not  
know who owned the property at the time of the  
Revolutionary War, but the stone portion of the wing  
definitely belongs to the early eighteenth century.

The land titles in this section of Bergen County are greatly involved. In 1789 Stevens and Company obtained a grant of five thousand acres for tracts in various sections of the western part of Bergen County. They sold off land to settlers; one of these settlers was a Packer. The first Packer came to Wyckoff at an early date. We do not know exactly when, neither do we know his first name, but he is buried at Wyckoff. He was supposed to have built the main house. The first owner about whom we have been able to get definite information is his son William I. Packer who was born in 1795 and died in 1863. He willed the property to one of his sons Henry W. Packer who was born in 1837 and died in 1918. He sold the place in 1909 to Cedarcrest Farms who sold to Isabel S. Newman in 1923; she sold that same year to Frederick Beggs from whom the present owner purchased in 1928.

The house was undoubtedly built at three different times. The stone portion of the wing was the earliest; it has the small windows characteristic of the early eighteenth century. The main house was built in the late eighteenth century. It has stone quoins and stone lintels left in natural colors while the rest of the front has been white-washed. This is typical of the late eighteenth century. The frame half story over the wing was undoubtedly added during the ownership of William Packer. The dormers and the front porch are modern.

#### Bibliography:

Bailey, Rosalie F. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York New York, William Morrow and Company, 1936

A search of Bergen County court records by  
Wallace Dunlop, Bergen County Office

Walter C. Rett  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

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